

SECTION 1. Section 12.057(b), Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Not later than July 30, 2021 [2017], the commission shall issue a final report to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and appropriate committees of the legislature.

SECTION 2. Section 12.058, Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 12.058. EXPIRATION OF SUBCHAPTER. This subchapter expires December 31, 2021 [2017].

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

Passed by the House on March 22, 2017: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting;
passed by the Senate on May 11, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved May 23, 2017.

Effective May 23, 2017.

**ELIGIBILITY OF LAND OWNED BY CERTAIN MEMBERS OF
THE ARMED SERVICES OF THE UNITED STATES FOR
APPRAISAL FOR AD VALOREM TAX PURPOSES AS
QUALIFIED OPEN-SPACE LAND**

CHAPTER 83

H.B. No. 777

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility of land owned by certain members of the armed services of the United States for appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes as qualified open-space land.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 23, Tax Code, is amended by adding Section 23.523 to read as follows:

Sec. 23.523. TEMPORARY CESSATION OF AGRICULTURAL USE WHEN PROPERTY OWNER DEPLOYED OR STATIONED OUTSIDE STATE AS MEMBER OF ARMED SERVICES. (a) The eligibility of land for appraisal under this subchapter does not end because the land ceases to be devoted principally to agricultural use to the degree of intensity generally accepted in the area if the owner of the land:

(1) is a member of the armed services of the United States who is deployed or stationed outside this state; and

(2) intends that the use of the land in that manner and to that degree of intensity be resumed not later than the 180th day after the date the owner ceases to be deployed or stationed outside this state.

(b) The owner of land to which this section applies must notify the appraisal office in writing not later than the 30th day after the date the owner is deployed or stationed outside this state that the owner:

(1) will be or has been deployed or stationed outside this state; and

(2) intends to use the land in the manner, to the degree, and within the time described by Subsection (a)(2).

SECTION 2. (a) This section applies only to land owned by a member of the armed services of the United States who is deployed or stationed outside this state on the effective date of this Act.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 23.523(b), Tax Code, as added by this Act, the eligibility of the land for appraisal under Subchapter D, Chapter 23, Tax Code, does not end because the land ceases to be devoted principally to agricultural use to the degree of intensity generally accepted in the area if:

(1) the owner of the land:

(A) meets the requirements of Section 23.523(a)(2), Tax Code, as added by this Act; and

(B) provides the notice required by Section 23.523(b), Tax Code, as added by this Act, not later than the 90th day after the effective date of this Act; and

(2) the chief appraiser of the appraisal district in which the land is located has not, as of the effective date of this Act, made a determination under Section 23.55, Tax Code, that a change in use of the land has occurred.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

Passed by the House on April 18, 2017: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 11, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved May 23, 2017.

Effective May 23, 2017.

PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT AN INQUEST IN CERTAIN COUNTIES

CHAPTER 84

H.B. No. 799

AN ACT

relating to the persons authorized to conduct an inquest in certain counties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. The heading to Subchapter C, Chapter 27, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER C. CONDUCTING COURT AND INQUESTS

SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 27, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 27.0545 to read as follows:

Sec. 27.0545. EXCHANGE OF BENCHES: INQUESTS. (a) If a justice of the peace or the county judge of a county to which Subchapter A, Chapter 49, Code of Criminal Procedure, applies is not available to conduct an inquest into a person's death occurring in the county, the justice of the peace of the precinct in which the death occurred or the county judge may request a justice of the peace of another county to which that subchapter applies to conduct the inquest.

(b) A justice of the peace who on request conducts an inquest under this section shall, not later than the fifth day after the date the inquest is initiated, transfer all information related to the inquest to the justice of the peace of the precinct in which the death occurred for final disposition of the matter.

(c) A justice of the peace who conducts an inquest under this section is not entitled to receive from the commissioners court of the county in which the death occurred any compensation, other than mileage, for conducting the inquest.

SECTION 3. Article 49.07(c), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding